

:- A PAGE FOR WOMEN AND THE HOME :-

THE DAILY SHORT STORY

THE TWINS

BY FANNY GRAY.

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SILAS STONE sat eating his solitary supper, which the hired girl had set before him. His wife, Mary, had driven over to the next town to stay a day or two and help settle up the affairs of a cousin who had died the week before, leaving twin babies, six months old. Her husband had always been a shiftless man, and seemed, of course, less resourceful in his hour of grief than ever before. So Mary, being the nearest relative, had taken charge of affairs, and was to stay until she had found a suitable person to do the housekeeping for the widower and take care of the babies.

Silas was out enjoying his supper. He and Mary were very fond of each other, and seldom had cause to be separated, and he missed her. They had been married ten years and had no children, which was a great disappointment to both of them. Now that it seemed likely that they would always have to be denied the joys of parenthood, they seldom spoke of it. It was their household tragedy, for both had wanted a family.

So, Silas rose from the table, and took his pipe out on the steps while supper was being cleared away. He was thinking a little bitterly of the unkind fate that had bestowed twins upon a couple who couldn't provide and then took away the mother.

He wondered how Mary was making out, and he pictured her playing mother to the babies. How he wished he dared propose to her that they adopt a child! He secretly had wanted it for some time, but Mary—well, he fancied Mary wouldn't care much about any child that wasn't her own. Many a time he had tried to talk about it with her, but somehow the words stuck in his throat. Now, as he sat alone, he summoned his courage and told himself that when she came home he would ask her—very gently, of course, not insistently.

How little we sometimes know of the thoughts and visions of those nearest and dearest to us! While Silas was sitting smoking his lonely pipe that summer evening Mary was rocking the twins to sleep, one against each arm, looking and feeling very motherly and happy. As the chair swayed back and forth, and she sang softly a little lullaby, she was thinking of her own childlessness and the rift it was making in her life.

She reflected that undoubtedly Silas didn't care so much, being a man, that he didn't appreciate how she longed for a little baby to love and do for. It seemed to her she just couldn't go on any longer without one. If he only would be willing for me to take one and keep it! she thought. But, then, I suppose he couldn't enjoy having a child around that wasn't his own. I can't blame him.

As she rocked and sang and looked at the sleeping babies, an idea popped into her head, so daring that it almost made her heart stop beating. Suppose they were to adopt the twins! Poor little things! They were good stock and related to them, and it would be a mercy now the mother was gone. But twins! Silas would never consent!

Mary's idea took root, however, and grew rapidly. The next day she discontinued her efforts to find a housekeeper and waited for Silas, who was to drive over in the afternoon and see if she was ready to go home. When he came, she somewhat timidly suggested that, as she had been unable to find a responsible person, they should take the babies home with them for a week or so, while she looked around at her lease.

Silas, somewhat astonished, and admiring her for her self-sacrifice, argued to the proposition, only cautioning her not to fatigue herself. And his interest in the twins grew every minute. He watched Mary tie on the

MANY COLORED RIBBONS DECORATE SMART HAT



LARGE BLACK VELVET HAT for afternoon wear, Lanvin model from Paris. It is faced with white and the trimmings are of multi-colored glass ribbon. It is one of the smart designs that will be popular during the fall and winter season.

tiny caps and pin the blankets around them, and on the way home he found himself more than once peering over into their little faces.

As the day passed Mary seemed very busy in her home, and Silas observed that she was not exerting herself to find the much-talked-of housekeeper. He was secretly delighted, for the babies were winding themselves around his heart. Often and often he watched Mary as she tended them, and the same thoughts that were in his mind grew up in his. He would like to keep the twins! But would Mary think?

One evening, after the babies had been put to bed, Silas and Mary were sitting on their porch, a little body of a neighbor ran in for a chat. Naturally, the conversation turned on the wonderful twins, their virtues and shortcomings, their looks and dispositions, and so on. Finally, the visitor, who was nothing if not frank, suddenly chirped up: "Spose you know everybody says you're going to adopt those young ones. I told my husband I just didn't believe it, and when I came over here I was going to ask you outright. It ain't so, is it?"

There was silence for a moment, then Mary spoke, rather tremblingly at first, but gathering courage as she went on. Yes, we've about decided. I have wanted for a long time to take a child, and this seems a special opportunity, being relatives and all—if the father is willing, and I guess he ain't likely to object. Yes, it's about decided. Folks are right, for once.

She glanced timidly at her husband, but she could scarcely see his face in the gathering darkness. What would he say or do? Had she risked too much? Her heart seemed to stand still. At last he spoke.

Sure we're going to keep them. We intended that, right along, after their mother died. But things like that can't be decided offhand. You couldn't hire Mary here to give 'em up, and as for me—well, Mary and I think alike on most subjects, and, as it happens, there ain't a mite of difference in our opinion in this matter.

The gossip neighbor hurried away to spread the news, and the husband and wife sat alone on the porch. After a little, Silas rose and went around to Mary's chair and took her hand gently in his. She lifted her face to his, and he kissed her. Careless had not been as frequent as usual with them of late. They had been thinking the same thing, and desiring the same thing, and had not known it till now.

Meantime, the neighbor, stopped in at the next house, was saying: Well, it's good it's twins. They can each have one to fuss over.

HEALTH HINTS
FORTY-FIVE
What will be your chances of living after 45?

Pretty slim, unless you take care of yourself, for statisticians have discovered that the mortality rate of persons in the United States over 45 years of age is increasing.

The strenuous life of today is not alone responsible for this. Lack of health-giving exercise, over-eating, lack of restoring sleep, over stimulation, the high pressure of the race for power, wealth and position, plus physical neglect—these bring early decay.

The goal is reached—wealth is amassed—honor, position and power are just being grasped when the apple of accomplishment turns to the ashes of dissolution. The brilliant mind becomes clouded, the steady hand is no longer accurate, the eye becomes dim and it is not long before the final break occurs.

All of this was entirely preventable. Other things being equal it is the man who leads the well-balanced life who lasts the longest, whose work to the end is uniformly the best, he who neither overworks nor overplays, neither over eats, over drinks, nor over sleeps, he who maintains a standard of simple, healthy diet in moderation, who offsets mental work with physical recreation, who is as honest with his own body as he is with his own business.

The regulations of the United States public health service state: "It is the duty of officers to maintain their physical as well as their professional fitness. To this end they shall be at the least personality," she said, "who works with men day after day is bound to attract someone of them. Then the decision rests with her."

"Besides I know my life is not a bit more interesting than any other working girl's. But the knowledge of my experiences may help others when they meet with the temptations that have beset me."

"So long as nature's great urge is that of propagation of the race, men will hunt and women hide behind the wall we call feminine virtue. Some day, however, I hope men and women will work side by side without a thought of anything but their work."

"I may be able to get through with few scars, but I know now that only through hurts—which, although they may heal in time always leave scars—can I succeed."

"Paula," I said, "why did you not then come to some of your old friends? Why did you not come to me?"

"I might have done so, dear Margie, if you had begun to teach school. But it took me only a week or so to understand that the point of view of the sheltered and cared for woman is as far from that of the working girl as the north pole from the south. When I was going through all my trouble, Margie, you were living at home with your mother. A year afterward, when you lost your mother and began to teach school, I was in New York, far from the old town where we were both born, striving to forget it and everything pertaining to it."

"It was good of you, dear Paula," said, "to tell me the story of your adventures. It is so different from the books that try to tell girls what they must encounter on the stage and other places in seeking work. What they say is either sentimental or brutal."

Paula nodded. "Any woman with

lowed time for recreation and study when ever their official duties will permit."

If the government regards it as essential that its sanitary experts shall be safeguarded in this way, is it not equally important to every citizen that he also maintains a high standard of physical fitness?

HEALTH QUESTIONS ANSWERED
B. J. D.—"How can I prevent the order from sweat under my arms?"
Bathe under your arms with a mixture of one-half teaspoon of household ammonia in a bowl of water.

FAIRVIEW.
Miss Elizabeth Sine has returned from Washington, D. C., where she was visiting relatives.

Mrs. J. Y. Hamilton was visiting at Clarksburg Friday. She accompanied her uncle, John Brock, home, who had been there for treatment.

Misses Margaret and Alice McMahon, of New Matamoras, Ohio, are visiting their cousins, Mrs. R. W. Fritz and Mrs. Elias Austin and other friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Heeter, who have been visiting the former's parents, John Heeter, have returned to their home at Parker's Landing, Pa.

Mrs. Beatrice Ambrose, who has been visiting her father in law in Fairmont, is the week-end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Eddy. She was accompanied here by her sister in law, Miss Ambrose, of Fairmont.

H. S. Snyder, of Blacksburg, was a business visitor here Saturday.

There will be an Eddy reunion at the Varner Groves at McCurdyville, Sunday, September 24. All the Eddys are invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Luton are the happy parents of a new baby.

Miss Irene Gillihan, of the Fairmont Normal, was a week-end guest at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams are the happy parents of a new baby.

Miss Marie Fritz, who has been visiting Miss Stella Haught, of Wadestown, has returned home.

Rev. Hudson, from Indiana, was a week-end guest of Mr. J. L. Tennant, and will begin a series of meetings at Farmington Sunday.

Mrs. Della Machesney and Mrs. Stella Machesney were in Fairmont shopping Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. H. S. Snyder, of Blacksburg, is quite sick.

Wm. Knode, Jr., left Saturday to attend the University at Morgantown.

Mrs. Wm. Parrish and Misses Nellie and Bird Whetzel were in Fairmont shopping Saturday afternoon.

SCOTCH PLAIDS FOR WEE KIDDIES

BY BETTY BROWN.
Whether or not she's a bra' Scotch lassie, I'll leave you to guess, but she wears the He'land colors, and many another little kindergarten girl is wearing plaids, too, this fall. They are more popular this season than ever before.

Cotton suiting is used in the little frock pictured here. The waist is white lawn; the bone buttons red as cherries.

Osgood's for Quality

FALL OPENING
Thursday, September 21

With the exception of some very fine garments and Pattern Hats in light perishable colors, nothing is laid away for the opening.

We mention this with a view to advise you that selection the fore-part of this week is especially commendable, as a great many desirable garments and Hats are sold on the Opening Day.

Those who can come in before Thursday will not only find better selections, but will not be hampered by the large crowds that usually attend Osgood's Openings.

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